

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY S/S-O:JGUNDERSEN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 199090 TOSEC 090028

EXDIS

FOLLOWINGREPEAT LUSAKA 2483 ACTION SECSTATE LAGOS USUN
INFO DAR ES SALAAM GABORONE LONDON MAPUTO PRETORIA 21 AUG 77

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 2483

EXDIS

E.O. 11652 XGDS-1

TAGS: PDEV RH US UK

SUBJECT: RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT: KAUNDA AGREES TO CALL
FRONT LINE MEETING

REF: LUSAKA 2475

1. AS A RESULT OF MWALE'S DISCUSSION WITH KAUNDA ABOUT
OUR HOPES FOR SCHEDULING AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF A FRONTLINE
MEETING(REFTEL) THE PRESIDENT ASKED UK HIGH COMMISSIONER MILES
AND ME TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH HIM SUNDAY MORNING.
HE ALSO ASKED TO BE BRIEFED ON NAMIBIA BY THE LOCAL
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CONTACT GROUP. THIS HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR FOREIGN
MINISTER MWALE AT THE SAME TIME. PRESENT WITH KAUNDA
WERE NINE OTHER ZAMBIANS: UNIP SECRETARY GENERAL ZULU,
PRIME MINISTER MAINZA CHONA, FOREIGN MINISTER MWALE,
DOMINIC MULAISHO AND PUNABANTU OF STATE HOUSE,
AND FOUR FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS.

2. KAUNDA THANKED MILES FOR THE CALLAGHAN LETTER AND SAID THAT FROM IT AND THE COMMUNICATIONS HE HAD HAD WITH NYERERE, HE BELIEVED THAT THE KEY PROBLEM OF THE ARMED FORCES HAD NOW BEEN RESOLVED. WE CAN NOW BEGIN TO TALK ABOUT A SETTLEMENT SERIOUSLY, HE SAID. ALTHOUGH SMITH AND THOSE OF HIS PERSUASION WOULD RETAIN CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE THROUGH THEIR CONTROL OF THE RHODESIAN ADMINISTRATION) AND THEIR ECONOMIC POWER, AND EVEN THROUGH THE CHURCHES, THE IMPORTANT POINT WAS THAT THE ARMED FORCES WOULD BE REPLACED BY ZIPA. THE MAJOR OBSTACLE HAD BEEN REMOVED AND OTHER THINGS WOULD BE EASIER. AS A RESULT OF THIS POINT HAVING BEEN MADE PRESIDENT KAUNDA SAID "WE HAVE NOW BEGUN TO SEE HOW SERIOUS YOU ARE".

3. KAUNDA SAID HE COULD AGREE THAT THE POLICE WOULD PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN THE INTERIM PERIOD PROVIDED THAT A TIGHT SCHREENING HAD TAKEN PLACE, A SCREENING WHICH INVOLVED POLITICAL CONSIDERATION. HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO HAVE A UN OR COMMONWEALTH FORCE HELP MAINTAIN ORDER. MILES, WHO HAD BEEN CONCERNED OVER THE NYERERE PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENT SATURDAY THAT RHODESIAN ARMED FORCES WOULD BE DISBANDED AND LAW AND ORDER TURNED OVER TO THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WITHOUT ANY TIMING METHOD, TRIED TO PRESS KAUNDA TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE PRESENCE OF RHODESIAN FORCES DURING THE INTERIM PERIOD. KAUNDA BRUSHED THE POINT ASIDE, SAYING THE PRINCIPLE THAT THE CONFIDENTIAL

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LIBERATION FORCES WOULD TAKE OVER HAD BEEN ACCEPTED. THE DETAILS COULD BE LOOKED AT LATER.

4. KAUNDA ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE HAD AGREED WITH NYERERE TO CALL A MEETING OF THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS. HE HAD BEEN TRYING TO CONTACT HIS COLLEAGUES THIS MORNING AND AT ONE POINT WAS CALLED OUT OF THE ROOM TO TALK TO ONE OF THEM. HE PROPOSED THAT THE 26TH OF AUGUST BE SET ASIDE FOR TALKS AMONG THE FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS AND THAT THEY MEET WITH OWEN AND YOUND ON THE 27TH. I SAID THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW WAS FOR OWEN AND YOUND TO PRESENT OUR PROPOSAL IN ITS ENTIRETY AND DETAIL AND THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR THEIR PRESENTATION TO COME EARLIER IN THE DISCUSSIONS. I SUGGESTED THAT THE PRESIDENT DISCUSS THE TIMING WITH ANDY YOUNG AND BRITISH MINISTER JUDD IN LAGOS. KAUNDA SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT WE GIVE NO RECOGNITION OR CONSIDERATION WHATSOEVER TO SMITHS ELECTION. I SAID WE FULLY AGREED AND FOR THIS REASON ARE ANXIOUS THAT AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FRONTLINE MEETING WITH OWEN AND YOUNG BE MADE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, HOPEFULLY TODAY, EVEN IF THE DETAILS WERE LEFT UNTIL LATER. KAUNDA SAID

HE DID NOT WANT TO DO THIS UNTIL HE HAD CONSULTED HIS COLLEAGUES BUT THAT THE ANNOUNCEMENT COULD COME FROM LUSAKA (MILES HAD SUGGESTED LAGOS) AFTER THE ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE.

5. . KAUNDA CLOSED THE MEETING SAYING HE WAS VERY HAPPY WITH THE PROGRESS THAT HAD BEEN MADE.

6. COMMENT: THE BEST ARRANGEMENT FOR THE FRONTLINE MEETING WOULD PROBABLY BE TO HAVE THE MEETING WITH OWEN AND YOUNG COME FIRST, FOLLOWED BY A FRONTLINE MEETING AND THEN A WRAP-UP JOINT MEETING. THERE IS PROBABLY CONSIDERABLE FLEXIBILITY IN THE WAY ARRANGZMENTS ARE MADE AND NO HARD AND FAST SCHEDULING WILL BE DONE
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AHEAD OF TIME. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER WHO WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ARRANGEMENTS HERE IN LUSAKA I SUGGESTED THIS PROCEDURE.
LOW.
UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER".

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